

at the finish when a collision resulted in serious injuries to several people. Shortly after this, the two-man adult race was stopped. The age limit was set at under 16 years of age. Brakes, along with maximum weight limit, became mandatory but extremely difficult to enforce. Wheel sizes were standardized with only one person riding the coasters.

In 1976, David Munsey and Dan Dugan staged the first in the rebirth of the adult division. Since then, the race has grown in magnitude and professionalism. This year's race promises to be the fastest and most exciting event since the times of Holmes and Wood with their airplane wheels.

The course is 1.74 miles, starting this year above Pueblo Court and ending in front of Wallace's Smoke Shop. The first part of the track consists of a sharp drop downhill with the canyon leveling off somewhat after Pump House. There are over sixteen curves which makes this race a thrill never forgotten by driver or spectator.

Nowadays with pneumatic tires and modern methods of coaster construction, the machines reach speeds in excess of sixty miles an hour. As fences and bales of hay are put in strategic locations, coasters are stringently inspected for safety procedures. Lying almost flat on your back, two inches off the ground, it takes six hundred pounds under 2½ minutes to complete the race.

These extreme conditions allow both the contestants and spectators a tremendous show of courage, skill and daring as some of these coasters do not always make it to the finish line. The winners never use the brakes they have on their coasters but do realize the importance of being able to slow down or stop in critical situations. Indeed, this sporting event is both dangerous and exciting.

In talking to last year's winner, Steve Knipp, who had the incredible time of 2:29:583, the fastest recorded time of a single driver in the history of the race, a person feels a sense of genuine respect and admiration for this young man who was a "dark horse" who outran an entire field of 37 drivers. Steve believes that after a certain amount of correct construction, most of the coasters will roll evenly with each other. The momentum between the start and Pump House is of vital importance. After making the Pump House curve, which is both frightening and awe inspiring to each driver, the ability to steer the coaster separates the contestants.



Photo Courtesy Orazio Fresina



Photo Courtesy Richard Byrd

The safety of the course is mandatory and it should be stressed that the drivers come extremely close to the curve trying to save seconds.

(PLEASE STAY OFF THE COURSE. THANK YOU.

—Michael Bednorz, *Drivers' Representative*)

## THIS BUD'S FOR YOU!



**TEDDY HOLMES  
STEVE KNIPP**

*You Guys Are Incredible*